



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Joint Sustainability Committee

Recommendation Number: (20160727-04A)

Fall 2016 Mobility Bond Package

WHEREAS, the Joint Sustainability Committee was created and charged by Austin City Council to advise city council on matters related to conservation and sustainability and review city policies relevant to the *Austin Community Climate Plan*¹; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Sustainability Committee represents a wide area of policy with membership appointed by the City Council, Austin Travis County Food Policy Board, Community Development Commission, Economic Prosperity Commission, Electric Utility Commission, Environmental Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, Resource Management Commission, Urban Transportation Commission, Water Wastewater Commission, and the Zero Waste Advisory Commission; and

WHEREAS, the March 2016 *Austin Community Climate Plan Progress Update* shows that 36% of carbon emissions from the Austin community are from transportation; and

WHEREAS, Infrastructure and Service action 1, Land Use action 1, and Land Use action 3 in the ACCP call for investment in high-capacity transit, urban trails, bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, investment in meaningful alternatives to single-occupancy car trips, including bicycling, walking and public transit, is an efficient and proven way to reduce congestion, and thereby reduce carbon emissions from idling vehicles; and

WHEREAS, funding the *Bicycle Master Plan*, which now includes the *Urban Trail Master Plan*, will remove an estimated 20,000 car trips from the Central Business District every day, leading to a reduction of 84,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide every year; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Adler has declared 2016 the Year of Mobility; and

WHEREAS, City Council has initiated the Mobility Talks public input process to garner ideas from the public and Boards and Commissions for easing congestion and improving mobility, including through a 2016 mobility bond; and

¹ City of Austin Code [§ 2-1-206](#) Source: Ord. No. 20141211-204, Ord. No. 20150820-005, and Ord. No. 20160303-032

WHEREAS, in May 2016 the Urban Transportation Commission, which has an appointed member on the Joint Sustainability Committee, voted unanimously to recommend light rail be placed on the November 2016 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Transportation Committee, has passed a resolution in favor of a 2016 mobility bond that funds bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in May 2016 the Zoning and Platting Commission voted to recommend alternative transportation modes to cars, including transit, be placed on the November 2016 ballot; and

WHEREAS, on May 11, 2015 the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization adopted the *CAMPO 2040 Plan*² defining a \$498,800,000 fiscally constrained future high capacity transit project in Central Austin; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2015 the *2015 Zandan Voices of the Community Poll*³ was released showing 66% support for using taxes to build an above-ground rail system in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2015 the *MobilityATX Findings Report*⁴ was released with a specific, data-supported light rail alignment that included the Guadalupe-North Lamar Corridor; and

WHEREAS, bicycling, walking and public transit are affordable transportation options; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Joint Sustainability Committee recommends that the City Council pursue a 2016 mobility bond that achieves the following:

1. Fully funds the Bicycle Master Plan, including “Tier 1” Urban Trails; and
2. Fully funds all “very high” and “high” priority sidewalks in the forthcoming 2016 Sidewalk Master Plan; and
3. Approves a comprehensive citywide system concept for light rail; and
4. Provides funding for a minimum operable segment of light rail; and
5. Funds strategic bike, pedestrian, and mass transit components of the Corridor Plans; and
6. Ensures equitable distribution of mobility benefits and burdens from bond proceeds.

Date of Approval: July 27, 2016

Record of the vote: Unanimous on an 8-0 vote

Attest: _____

² Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization [CAMPO 2040 Plan](#) pg. 186

³ [2015 Zandan Voices of the Community Poll](#) pg. 5

⁴ [MobilityATX Findings Report](#) pp. 26-27